



NORTHLIGHTS

APRIL 2016

OUR MISSION
To share with all people the presence of God
and the love of Christ.

Our Vision

To foster a caring congregational community that challenges its members to recognize and utilize their gifts and abilities so that it is a magnet, drawing a variety of people to Christ by providing diversity in worship, education, service and fellowship.



We are an ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) congregation, where people of faith celebrate, learn and connect with one another and others around the world through service and weekly worship. **All are welcome!**



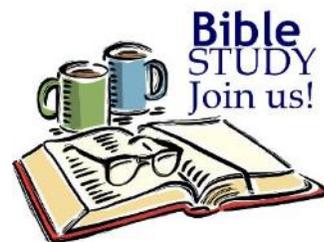
NEW! Evening Bible Study Begins Wednesday, April 6

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7pm
April 6 through May 4.

This serious study of the Word is one of the cornerstones of the Lutheran spiritual life. We'll begin with a look at how Lutherans study the bible. Pastor Anja will provide insight on different perspectives as we read.

The next four Wednesday evenings, April 13 through May 4, we will be studying Ruth, one chapter per week.

Please join us! The first session will be at 7PM in the church library, on April 6.



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!



Getting ready to celebrate on Easter morning!

~ ~ ~

Thanks to all who helped decorate the sanctuary for our Easter celebration ~ Cindi Engelhardt, Judy Elbert, Jo Boyett, Ken Musgrave, Jerry Wagner, Pat and Dorothy Rooney, Nancy Martin, Jeanie McBee, Ernie Coombs, and everyone who provided the beautiful plants and flowers to honor loved ones.



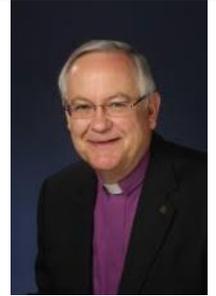
NORTHLAKE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Surprised by Grace

Kirby Unti, Bishop

Northwest Washington Synod

Article from *The Spirit*, April 2016



Your Synod Staff has been engaged in a robust conversation about what is the role of the Synod in the midst of all that is changing. It is critical for us to be clearer about who we are because like many of you we are relying on fewer and fewer resources to do the work. This is true both in terms of dollars and people power. Our Staff has graciously agreed to take a 2.5% salary cut to make ends meet. Being clearer about who we are will help us to know to what we can say YES, and to what we will need to say NO.

One of my dear friends in the Renton business community was Pat Newbury. Pat owned four McDonald's restaurants. He put the identity question this way, "You have to know what business you are in?" He then went on to clarify that McDonald's is NOT in the hamburger business. There are lots of people in the hamburger business - but what has made McDonald's successful is that they are in the Three C's Business: Convenience, Consistency, & Cleanliness. You should be able to go into any restaurant in the world and order a Big Mac quickly, that taste like a Big Mac and enjoy it in a clean surrounding. This is pretty true of McDonald's. Howard Schultz has a similar story to tell. Starbucks is more than coffee. It is community. It is a "third place."

Do you know what your identity is as a congregation or ministry site?

Do you know what business you are in?

I left for Chicago this year to attend the March Conference of Bishops with this question of identity hanging over me. I found myself thinking about it on the airplane, during break times, and when my mind would wander from the presentation at hand. (This happened frequently!)

It dawned on me: I know what business Lutherans are called to be in. We are called to constantly be discerning where we can surprise the world with God's grace. I believe this is the best gift we have to offer the world.

We Lutherans have no monopoly on it. I think of the wonderful people of Mother Emanuel (Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC) who surprised the world with God's grace when they refused to respond with hate to a young Lutheran man who murdered blood of their own blood. I think of the growing attention that Pope Francis is gaining as he continues to surprise the world with God's grace as he responds with compassion rather than condemnation - when he reaches out to touch and kiss the poor and forgotten.

This is who Jesus is for me. The one who over and over again responds in ways no one would predict - turning the cheek, forgiving his enemies, and dying on a cross.

The surprise of the gospel is the very reason I cannot turn my back on it. It just continues to intrigue me and disrupt the normal tendencies of my life.

So what does this mean for the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA? What does it mean for us to be in the business of surprising the world with God's grace?

I can promise you this will be preoccupying my heart and mind as I go about the business of serving this office.



"You have turned my wailing into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy." ~ Psalm 30:11



From Pastor Anja

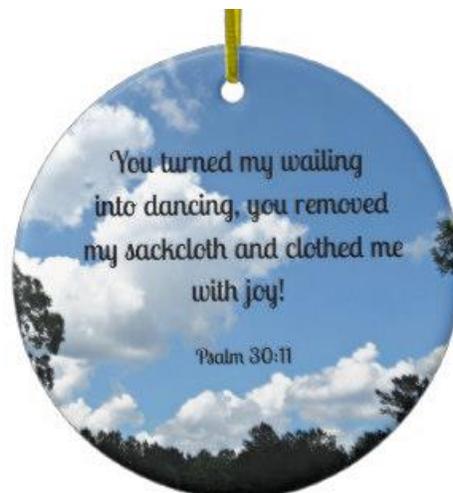
When I look back upon my life, I am amazed and astounded at how God has turned my grief into joy. Over and over again. It is not that my grief has disappeared. I think back upon difficult times and can still feel the pain. Yet, it is that grief that has brought me to a new place. It is that grief that has taught me, held me, and formed me. And it is only now, when looking back, that I am aware of God's hands in that forming.

We often speak of God as Savior, and of the salvation God brings. Many think of that salvation as something that comes in the end, when we breathe our last breath, with the hope and trust that the end we experience is not truly an end, but a transition. There is comfort in that, and yet I know salvation to be so much more.

I know salvation to be something that I do not wait to experience, but have experienced, and continue to experience. I make my way through this life, embracing God's trust in me as I endeavor to trust God. I know that the little bit of trust I have in God is miniscule, a fraction of the trust God has in me, and yet that miniscule piece brings me peace. It saves me. It turns my wailing into dancing.

This is the meaning of Easter for me. The hope of a new day. A day that allows me to nourish the tiny trust I carry and watch it grow. A day that enables me to leave the wailing behind... not to be forgotten, but always teaching me new things, bringing me to new places, connecting me with new experiences. Easter is a gift of renewal. A gift of rebirth. And a gift of salvation.

May you feel this gift most intimately. May it nourish you even as you feed the trust you carry. And may you ever feel God's trust in you.





RECONCILING IN CHRIST UPDATE

You may know that some members of Northlake Lutheran Church marched last year with Pastor Anja in the Seattle Pride Parade in June. During that experience, we learned about a process that many Lutheran churches have engaged called Reconciling in Christ (RIC). As a follow up to the march and questions some had on what it means to be a RIC congregation, Reverend Rick Pribbernow came and gave an informal, informational presentation on March 13th to a small group of members who have been curious about RIC. As a result of that presentation, there is now some energy and interest in learning more about what would be involved in having Northlake become a truly inclusive RIC congregation. As we learn more, informational updates and opportunities for discussion will be forthcoming. If you would like to be engaged as part of the core team who will investigate further, please contact Ernie Coombs.

~ Molly Murdock

SPOTLIGHT ON GIVING ~ LUTHERAN MARITIME MINISTRY

In our series of profiles on charitable organizations supported by Northlake's funding, this month we spotlight the Lutheran Maritime Ministry (LMM).



The focus of this group is to minister to the crews of commercial ships – cruise ships, container ships, and others, which call at ports in Seattle, Bellingham and Tacoma. These crewmen are usually away from their homes for periods of six to nine months, with just a half day tied up in various ports all over the world. During this brief period of downtime, LMM and their partner organization The Mission to Seafarers, provide opportunities for some local human services. Some of the services include:

- ♥ Vans to transport the crewmen to shopping centers.
- ♥ The Seattle Seafarer's Center, a quiet lounge area where the seaman can get away from the ship and relax with reading or TV.
- ♥ Bibles and Christian literature to allow them to tend to their spiritual life.
- ♥ Phones and computers to allow them to call their loved ones back home or check their e-mail.

All this is the opposite of being stuck in a foreign country during their "break" from a dangerous, tedious, tiring job. It's easy to see how our financial support contributes to the ministry provided by the LMM. There are also volunteer opportunities to interact with the seafarers and assist in maintaining the facility. *Thank you, Northlake!*

~ Social Ministry Committee



Employment Opportunity here at Northlake Lutheran ~

Ashley Price, our wonderful custodian, is going to work full time at Amazon, so we are in need of a part-time custodian for 4 hours twice a week (8 hours total). This position is responsible for the overall cleanliness of the rooms and open areas within the church building. It is an hourly Staff position. Resumes and references can be sent to office@northlakelutheran.org.

DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT**by Justin Grimm**

Reprinted from the elca.org website. (Originally posted Jan. 29, 2014, at Ephphatha, with permission from the author.)

I was asked to write something about mission development and redevelopment — here it is.

I need to make a confession. I love the church. I love the idea of the church — the promise of community coming together and the opportunity to work together for good. To me, church is the entity that has the power to change the world if we truly align ourselves with the calling of Christ. I love the church.

But I also struggle with the church. I struggle because I see the church having the inability to live into the mission of what Christ has called us to do because we get caught up in the mentality of maintaining what we have. Language of “we have always done it that way” and the reality that change is so hard often leads to a paralysis of fresh ideas and new ministries in our existing churches.

Please know I love the church. Also know that I write this from the perspective of one currently serving a mission congregation that is around 8 years old and who has been part of many congregations that have faced the harsh reality of doing things the same — just because we have always done that.

Here’s the deal. Mission developments (new congregations) and mission redevelopments (congregations that undergo serious re-visioning) offer the church as we know it an incredible opportunity to be bold in ways that established congregations just can’t. Now, I am not saying that established congregations cannot be bold and cannot do God’s work — remember I love the church. But, my experience the last eight years and my conversations with people new to the church or back to the church for the first time in years suggest that this claim is true.

This is what I have heard. A new start or restart allows someone who has felt their voice was not heard to be heard. A new start or restart allows a community of faith to listen to what the community around them needs in a way that an established congregation cannot. A new start or restart has little baggage and has the freedom to be as simple or complex as it wishes without fear of hurting the history. A new start or restart allows a new person to come in and not feel like a new person because everyone is new. A new start or restart has the ability to be fresh and different. A new start or restart is hard.

Back to my confession. I love the church. And I love to think of what the church can be doing better and what the church can be doing next. I know that new starts and restarts have to be part of that because I have seen the power they have firsthand. Yes, it’s hard work but if we don’t do it — who will?





Brenna Engelhardt, daughter of Northlake Lutheran member Cindi Engelhardt, attends a fun Confirmation Party held on March 31, 2016 at Wooden Cross Lutheran in Woodinville!

Playing the Potato-on-a-Spoon sharing game.



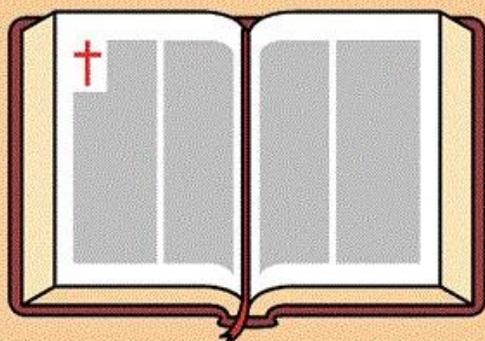
Playing a challenge game, to see if they can coordinate to sit at the same time and not fall.



NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH APRIL 2016 CALENDAR

Key: FH = Fellowship Hall Conf = Conference Room LL = Lower Level SDA – Seventh Day Adventist Church

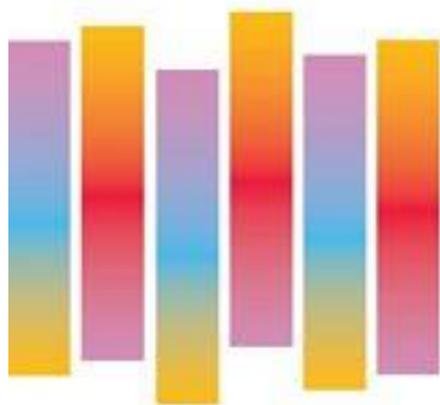
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 April Birthdays 12 – Dot Branchley 23 – Rick Heinbaugh <i>Happy Birthday!</i>	 4 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm ~ Social Ministries (Conf) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	5 2pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 6:00pm ~ Worship Matters mtg (Library)	6 6:30-8pm ~ Cub Scouts (LL) 7:00pm ~ Evening Bible Study (Library)	7 8:00am ~ Hilltoppers Garden Club (FH) 6:00pm ~ Daisy Troop (Youth Room)	1 Pastor Anija's Sabbath 8am-2pm ~ Classical Conversations (LL)	2 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 4-6pm – SDA Adventurers (FH)
3 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour	4 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 6:30pm ~ Social Ministries (Conf) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	5 2pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 6:00pm ~ Worship Matters mtg (Library)	6 6:30-8pm ~ Cub Scouts (LL) 7:00pm ~ Evening Bible Study (Library)	7 8:00am ~ Hilltoppers Garden Club (FH) 6:00pm ~ Daisy Troop (Youth Room)	8 Pastor Anija's Sabbath JG Murphy Parking Lot 8am-2pm ~ Classical Conversations (LL)	9 JG Murphy Parking Lot 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 1pm ~ SDA Potluck (FH) 4-6pm ~ SDA Adventurers (FH)
10 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour	11 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	12 2pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 4:30-6:30pm ~ Food Bank (FH) 6:45pm ~ Redevelopment Team meeting (Library) 7pm ~ Property Committee Mtg (Conf) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	13 6:30pm ~ Cub Scouts (FH) 7:00pm ~ Evening Bible Study (FH)	14	15 Pastor Anija's Sabbath 8am-2pm ~ Classical Conversations (LL)	16 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 10am ~ Worship & Music Comm mtg (Conf) 1pm ~ Redevelopment Ministry review (Conf) 4-6pm ~ SDA Pathfinders (FH)
17 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour 11:30am ~ Reconciling in Christ meeting (Conf)	18 6:30pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH & Sanctuary) 6:30pm ~ Parish Education (Conf) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	19 2pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 6:45pm ~ Redevelopment Team meeting (Library) 7pm ~ Church Council mtg (Conf) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	20 6:30pm ~ Cub Scouts (LL & FH) 7:00pm ~ Evening Bible Study (FH)	21 6pm ~ Daisy Troop (Youth Room) 6:30pm ~ Dahlia Club (FH)	22 Pastor Anija's Sabbath 8am-4:30pm ~ Dahlia Club Annual Tuber Sale 5pm ~ Classical Conversations Celebration (LL)	23 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School (Sanctuary/classrooms) 1pm ~ SDA Potluck (FH) 4-6pm ~ SDA Pathfinders
24 10-11am ~ Worship 11am ~ Coffee Hour	25 6:30-9pm ~ Boy Scouts (FH) 7pm ~ Knitters (Library)	26 2pm ~ Bible Study (Library) 4:30-6:30pm ~ Food Bank (FH) 7pm ~ SDA Prayer Group (Sanctuary)	27 6:30pm ~ Cub Scouts (LL & FH) 7:00pm ~ Evening Bible Study (FH)	28	29 Pastor Anija's Sabbath	30 8am-2pm ~ SDA Worship & Saturday School



Wednesdays
7:00 PM

Weekly Evening Bible Study

Northlake Lutheran Church, Kenmore



NORTHLAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 P O Box 82603
 6620 NE 185th Street
 Kenmore, Washington 98028
www.northlakelutheran.org

Pastor Anja Helmon
 Office Administrator Susan Frederick
 Organist Wendy DeLong
 Custodian Ashley Price
 Security Keith Hood

NorthLights editor is Susan Frederick.
 Please send articles or calendar items
 by the **20th** of each month to:
office@northlakelutheran.org
 or drop them by the office.
Thank you!

Church office hours: Tuesday through Friday, 9am-2pm
Phone: 425-486-6977 | **Email:** office@northlakelutheran.org
Pastor Anja's Sabbath: Friday
Pastor Anja's Email: pastoranja@northlakelutheran.org

**Like Us on
Facebook!**

